

UGH! WANDERERS CRASH AT ST. ALBANS

Second-Half Thrashing For Late Arrivals

By "CHILTERN"

St. Albans City 4, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, old campaigners at Clarence Park, attracted St. Albans' biggest crowd of the season on Tuesday night (1,100), and then proceeded to let the City give their fans something to shout about.

This was a grand game of soccer, and in the second-half Wanderers found themselves on the receiving end of a real drubbing.

St. Albans scored four fine goals before Samuels headed a goal for Wycombe three minutes before the end. It was not even a consolation for the run-around they had been given.

After the Wanderers coach had been held up in heavy traffic the game started ten minutes late. And it started at such a pace the both sides seemed to be making up for lost time.

It was as if a huge pair of hands had grasped the pitch at either end and then started tilting it from side to side, with the result that the players, the ball and the crowd's excitement swung like a pendulum from goalmouth to goalmouth.

UNDERDOGS

Though there was no score at the interval, Wanderers were first-half underdogs, always seeming that extra pace slower than the blue-shirted St. Albans.

City almost went ahead in the sixth minute when a terrific shot from Waldock almost snapped the crossbar. This proved to be a fillip for the home forwards who thereafter were ready to shoot on sight.

It was also a game of feeling. Worley was warned for hacking at Hughes after a heavy tackle, and the referee had a word with Gale and Pottle after they had stood kicking each other in an uncouth manner.

The decline and fall of Wanderers began in the 55th minute when right-winger Gladwin scored

the first of his three goals. Receiving the ball 35 yards out on the right he unleashed a tremendous shot which swerved violently and the full-stretch Maskell was only able to palm on its journey into the corner of the netting.

Scenting their first home win since March St. Albans settled down to the job in hand. Gladwin burst through to score his second and then half-back Wood netted a low drive.

I was surprised that Gladwin's third goal was allowed! Rundle, Wycombe's best defender, tackled Waldock on the right but was dragged to the ground by his shirt before Waldock centred and Gladwin was on hand to thump the ball into the roof of the net from close in.

Wycombe's forwards were right out of touch. Bates made his 450th appearance for the club a benevolent match—for St. Albans, and chances for Samuels and Horseman were few and far between.

Merrick was the best forward, never giving up and chasing all over the field. Sherbourne had another promising game at right half.

Horseman had hard luck on two occasions, once when he hit the inside of a post only to see the ball screw clear.

Wycombe—Maskell; Beck, Roystone; Sherbourne, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick. Sub.: Baker.

St. Albans—Fowler; Lawrence, Hughes; Gibbs, Bromley, Wood; Gladwin, Waldock, Butterfield, Pottle, Smith.